

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs ~~(1)~~ for robotic applications for the resistance welding of workpieces and, in particular, sheet metals, of the type including tong arms ~~(3)~~ which are each pivotally mounted on a base body ~~(2)~~ and adjustable by an actuating means ~~(13)~~ and to which electrode holders ~~(4)~~ for the electrodes ~~(5)~~ are fastened, and further including winding means ~~(7)~~ comprising a wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and a wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ for winding off and on a strip ~~(6)~~ for the protections of at least one electrode ~~(5)~~, wherein the wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and the wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ of the winding means ~~(7)~~ are arranged on the base body ~~(2)~~ or on the tong arm ~~(3)~~, and that at least one guiding groove ~~(8)~~ is provided on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ and/or and on the electrode holder ~~(4)~~ for the guidance of the strip ~~(6)~~ along the tong arm ~~(3)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein means for guiding and deflecting the strip ~~(6)~~, in particular deflection pulleys and slide surface ~~(9)~~, are provided on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ and/or electrode holder ~~(4)~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the wind-off roller ~~(10)~~ and/or the wind-up roller ~~(11)~~ is coupled with a driving means ~~(12)~~ and, in particular, an electronically activatable motor.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is formed by a base section ~~(15)~~, and that side pieces ~~(16)~~ are arranged on either side of the base section ~~(15)~~ to project beyond the base section ~~(15)~~, and thus formed depression is designed as a guiding groove ~~(8)~~ for the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to ~~claims~~ claim 4, wherein at least one cover plate ~~(18)~~ is arranged on the end sides ~~(17)~~ of the side pieces ~~(16)~~ to cover the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ formed between the side pieces ~~(16)~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is formed by a base section with the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ being incorporated in the base section ~~(15)~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the guiding groove ~~(8)~~ is formed by

additional guiding elements ~~(19)~~ which are provided, for instance slipped or screwed, on the tong arm ~~(3)~~ and/or electrode holder ~~(4)~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein the tong arm ~~(3)~~ is comprised of several individual components ~~(29)~~ which are connected with one another in a manner that a hollow space ~~(21)~~ is formed in the center of the tong arm ~~(3)~~ for the guidance of the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 1, wherein a braking device ~~(22)~~ is provided to fix and stretch the strip ~~(6)~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Spot welding tongs according to claim 9, wherein the braking device ~~(22)~~ is connected with a control unit ~~(23)~~.

Claims 11-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): Spot welding tongs comprising:

a plurality of tong arms;

a base body wherein said plurality of tong arms are each

pivotally mounted on said base body;

an actuating means, wherein said tong arms are adjustable by said actuating means;

a plurality of electrode holders;

a plurality of electrodes wherein at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes is fastened to at least one of said plurality of electrode holders;

a strip;

a winding mechanism coupled to the base body, and comprising a wind-off roller and a wind-up roller for winding off and on said strip for the protection of at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes wherein said wind-off roller and said wind-up roller of the winding mechanism are arranged on said base body; and

at least one guiding groove disposed on at least one of said tong arms for the guidance of said strip along said tong arm.

20 (New): The spot welding tongs as in claim 19, wherein

said electrode holder further comprises at least one groove.

Claim 21 (New): Spot welding tongs comprising:

a plurality of tong arms;

a base body wherein said plurality of tong arms are each pivotally mounted on said base body;

an actuating means, wherein said tong arms are adjustable by said actuating means;

a plurality of electrode holders;

a plurality of electrodes wherein at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes is fastened to at least one of said plurality of electrode holders;

a strip;

a winding mechanism coupled to the base body and comprising a wind-off roller and a wind-up roller for winding off and on said strip for the protection of at least one electrode of said plurality of electrodes wherein said wind-off roller and said

wind-up roller of the winding mechanism are arranged on said base body; and

at least one guiding groove disposed on said electrode holder for the guidance of said strip.